



In Reply Refer To:
CWFO

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Central Washington Field Office
215 Melody Lane, Suite 119
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June 15, 2004

Sandy Simmons
Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers
201 North 3rd Avenue
Walla Walla, Washington 99362-1876

RE: Lower Snake and Clearwater River Dredging
FWS Reference: 01-I-E0423, 02-I-E0252, 03-I-W0313

Dear Ms. Simmons:

We have received your faxed letter of June 14, 2004, requesting confirmation of informal consultation on the proposed Lower Snake River and Clearwater River dredging projects. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) engaged in informal consultation with the COE on these projects in 2001, 2002, and 2003 (see FWS references 01-I-E0423, 02-I-E0252, 03-I-W0313). In these informal consultations, the Service concurred with the COE determination that the proposed projects may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect bull trout. These concurrences were dependent upon implementation of the conservation measures outlined in the BE, and adherence to all special conditions mandated by the COE.

Due to delays in project implementation the dredging proposed for the 2003-2004 season did not occur. Since the proposed dredging for the winter of 2004-2005 is the same as that outlined in the 2003-2004 consultation the concurrence issued by the Service remains valid.

This concludes informal consultation for species under the purview of the Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). This project should be re-analyzed if new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this consultation; if the action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in this consultation; and/or, if

a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by this project. Your efforts to protect endangered species are appreciated. If you have further questions about this letter or your responsibilities under the Act, please contact Gregg Kurz at (509) 665-3524.

Sincerely,

/Signed/

Supervisor